

**AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS AID**

(INCORPORATED IN THE ACT)

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Dear friends

I hope the attached material on East Timor is useful. I am directing it to your organisation and network through you, as naturally the production and mailing of multiple copies is too expensive from here. However there are more copies of the green dossier.

Three items need to be emphasised:

1. Petition to Australian Parliament

In the attached is a petition which calls on Australia to do more for East Timor to match its efforts in the Middle East. The people responsible for drafting it are looking for signatures.... in a hurry! Can you circulate in your network. Due back date is 20 October.

I have included Jim Dunn's comments on the Gulf crisis vis-a-vis ETimor in case you are looking for ideas, words etc. to push the Timor case in this context.

2. Timor Gap Treaty

Some details not in the mailout: Commission I of the Indonesian Parliament (DPR) is currently considering the Treaty. The Commission comprises some 10 MPs and is concerned with foreign affairs, security etc. Governor Carrascalao has appeared before it and, interestingly, complained that the East Timorese had been treated as spectators to the whole process and, to add insult to injury, the Treaty authority was to be based in Kupang (West Timor) not Dili.

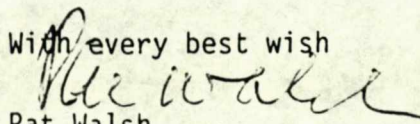
The Commission will recess on October 15 and resume on November 4 following which it is assumed it will recommend ratification of the Treaty by the full Parliament.

Portugal has repeatedly said it would wait until all the formalities were over and full ratification had been given before it acted. It is likely, therefore, that we can expect something either way from Portugal before the end of this year, following the DPR ratification.

3. 15th anniversary of Indonesian invasion

Here in Oz there will be a national gathering and demonstration in Canberra (2-3 December) to mark this occasion. There will also be a commemorative function in Melbourne. Some ideas on the shape of this are included in this mailout.

With every best wish


Pat Walsh

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ACFOA is the co-ordinating body for some 90 Australian non-government organisations working in the field of overseas aid and development.